

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 07919 191822Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02

L-01 PRS-01 EUR-08 IO-06 DHA-02 /049 W

-----104563 191937Z /44

P 191745Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5287

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7919

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CG

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU ON NGUZA

REF: A) STATE 194775; B) KINSHASA 7851 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETING MAUGUST 19 I TOLD MOBUTU THAT PROMPT, FAIR TRIAL FOR NGUZA WOULD BE VIEWED IN US AS APPROPRIATE IN CONTEXT OF ZAIRE'S CURRENT EMPHASIS ON REFORMS INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS. MOBUTU SHED SOME ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON NGUZA'S CASE AND CONFIRMED ONLY THAT THERE WOULD BE CIVILIAN TRIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. I MET WITH MOBUTU ALONE FOR AN HOUR AUGUST 19. AFTER DISCUSSING SEVERAL OTHER MATTERS, I TURNED TO QUESTION OF NGUZA'S ARREST. I SAID THIS HAD OF COURSE COME AS SURPRISE TO EVERYONE, NOT THE LEAST THOSE IN WASHINGTON WITH WHOM NGUZA HAD SO RECENTLY CONFERRED. I SAID IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF NGUZA'S VISIT AND FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN SENT AS PRESIDENT'S EMISSARY TO EXPLAIN REFORMS IN ZAIRE INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS THAT THERE WAS UNDERSTANDABLY MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST IN HIS WELFARE.

3. BEFORE I COULD GO ON, MOBUTU BROKE IN TO SAY THAT NOBODY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 07919 191822Z

HAD BEEN MORE SURPRISED, SHOCKED AND GRIEVED THAN MOBUTU HIMSELF WHEN HE LEARNED OF NGUZA'S BETRAYAL. HE THEN REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL, BUT WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS, THE TWO INCIDENTS ALREADY PUBLICIZED INVOLVING NGUZA'S CONTACTS WITH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN PARIS. MOBUTU WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO REVEAL SOMETHING MORE: THAT WHILE EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON IN JULY NGUZA HAD SPOKEN DISPARAGINGLY ABOUT MOBUTU TO ONE OR MORE

OFFICIALS OF THE ZAIRIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS. IN THESE CONVERSATIONS NGUZA ALLEGEDLY HAD EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL AND DISCOURAGEMENT ABOUT THE WAY MOBUTU WAS RUNNING THE COUNTRY, HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE, NGUZA, COULD DO A MUCH BETTER JOB, AND HAD TALKED ABOUT GETTING OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND "PERHAPS GOING TO TEACH AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY". MOBUTU SAID HE HAD BEEN TERRIBLY UPSET TO HEAR SUCH SENTIMENTS COMING FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND HAD SPENT THREE DAYS IN VIRTUAL SECLUSION AT HIS COUNTRY HOME IN GBADOLITE AGONIZING (AT ONE POINT, HE SAID, CRYING ALONE IN HIS GARDEN) OVER WHAT TO DO. HE HAD FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT NGUZA'S ACTIVITIES CONSTITUTED TREASON.

4. I SAID WHATEVER NGUZA HAD DONE AND HOW HE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH WAS OBVIOUSLY ZAIRE'S OWN BUSINESS. BUT IN VIEW OF THE FOCUS WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED ON REFORMS BY THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 1 SPEECH, AND NGUZA'S TRIP TO THE US TO EXPLAIN THEM, IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR NGUZA TO BE GIVEN A PROMPT, FAIR TRIAL. THIS WOULD BE REASSURING IN THE CONTEXT OF ZAIRE'S RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HELPFUL WITH RESPECT TO ZAIRE'S IMAGE IN THE US, INCLUDING THE CONGRESS WHICH HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO ZAIRE'S CAUSE. I ALSO NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN EVIDENT THAT NGUZA WAS NOT WELL WHILE IN THE US AND THIS, OF COURSE, ADDED ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF HIS WELFARE.

5. MOBUTU SAID WE NEED HAVE NO CONCERN. THERE WOULD BE A TRIAL, IN CIVILIAN COURT. MEANWHILE NGUZA WAS BEING HELD IN COMFORTABLE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 07919 191822Z

QUARTERS IN ONE OF THE OAU GUEST VILLAS. (WHERE ELSE WOULD A TRAITOR BE GIVEN SUCH CONSIDERATE TREATMENT, HE ASKED.) HE HAD BEEN QUESTIONED AND, AFTER CLAIMING FOR SEVERAL HOURS THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL THE DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS IN PARIS, HAD FINALLY ADMITTED THE ACCURACY OF THE CHARGES. MOBUTU CONFIRMED THAT NGUZA HAD BEEN "VERY SICK" AND, HE CLAIMED, HAD RETURNED TO KINSHAS JUST AFTER BEING RELEASED BY THE CLINIC IN HOLLAND. MOBUTU DID NOT EXPLICITLY CONFIRM THAT NGUZA HAD ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT OR INDICATE WHEN TRIAL WOULD BE HELD.

6. COMMENT: WHILE MOBUTU REMAINED OUTWARDLY IN GOOD HUMOR THROUGHOUT OUR FAIRLY LONG CONVERSATION, THERE CAN BE LITTLE QUESTION THAT HE DID NOT MUCH APPRECIATE MY APPROACH ON NGUZA. FROM VARIOUS REFERENCES HE MADE, I AM ALL THE MORE CONVINCED THAT MOBUTU BECAME RESENTFUL AND SUSPICIOUS OF NGUZA'S INCREASING PROMINENCE TO THE POINT HE FELT NGUZA MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE SCENE. ANOTHER, MORE DISTURBING INFERENCE I DREW IS THAT MOBUTU SOMEHOW FEELS THAT THE US IS RELATED TO AND PERHAPS PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THREAT HE APPARENTLY PERCEIVED AS COMING FROM NGUZA. GIVEN MOBUTU'S PARANOIA AND PROPENSITY FOR CONSPIRACY, IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE COULD SUSPECT, OR CONTRIVE, A SCENARIO STEMMING FROM THE SHABA CRISIS AND ITS AFTERMATH THAT

WOULD IMPLICATE THE US AT LEAST CIRCUMSTANTIALLY IN AN EFFORT  
TO PROMOTE NGUZA AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MOBUTU. DURING MY MEETING  
WITH MOBUTU I TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR INTEREST IN NGUZA'S  
FATE STEMMED ONLY FROM AN UNDERSTANDABLE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN  
AS WELL AS IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING THE POSITIVE MOMENTUM  
WE HAVE RECENTLY SEEN IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY  
SINCE MOBUTU'S WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANT REFORMS.  
TIME WILL TELL WHETHER MOBUTU WILL ACCEPT OUR MESSAGE AS  
INTENDED OR ATTEMPT TO PAARLAY IT INTO A FURTHER COMPLICATION  
IN OUR RELATIONS.  
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, TRIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KINSHA07919  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770300-0505  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KINSHASA  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770845/aaaablih.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 021e0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 194775, 77 KINSHASA 7851  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1551304  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU ON NGUZA  
**TAGS:** PINT, PDIP, CG, US, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO), (NGUZA KARL-I-BOND)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/021e0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009